

## Message Text

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TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: COMBINED MEDIA REPORT, THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 13

NO. 20

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

SUMMARY: LIGHT COVERAGE. HAK BECOMES TOURIST. AL AHAM  
REPORTS DEADLOCK MAY BE RESOLVED. UPI SAYS EGYPTIAN  
SOURCES REPORT ASSAD APPROACHED SADAT THROUGH THIRD PARTY  
TO PRESSURE HAK TO NEGOTIATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN GOLAN  
HEIGHTS.

RADIO

KALB, CBS RADIO FROM ASWAN: SECRETARY TOOK MRS. KISSINGER  
SIGHTSEEING TODAY, WALKING THROUGH 3000-YEAR OLD TEMPLES  
ON AN ISLAND NEAR ASWAN DAM, WHILE PRESIDENT SADAT TOOK  
HIS TOP AIDES TO A PRIVATE MEETING PRESUMABLY TO CONSIDER  
SOME KIND OF EGYPTIAN CONCESSION THAT WOULD REPRESENT A  
BREAKTHROUGH IN THIS NEGOTIATION, MAINLY THE DEGREE TO  
WHICH SADAT WILL GIVE ISRAEL POLITICAL CONCESSIONS AND  
END LONG STATE OF WAR BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. LATER TODAY,  
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SADAT GIVES HAK RESULT OF HIS DELIBERATIONS WITH FM FAHMI  
AND WAR MINISTER GAMACY. HAK OBVIOUSLY TRIED TO INFLUENCE  
RESULT DURING HIS LONG TALK WITH SADAT LAST NIGHT. HE

BROUGHT FROM ISRAEL THE FRAMEWORK FOR A NEGOTIATION AND THAT INCLUDES AN ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO GIVE UP TWO STRATEGIC PASSES AND OIL FIELDS IN SINAI IN EXCHANGE FOR A PROPER PLEDGE OF NON-BELLIGERENCY, EVEN IF IT IS NOT CALLED THAT. KEY NOW IS WHAT SADAT CAN GIVE ISRAEL IN RETURN. ONE POSSIBILITY IS A PHASED AGREEMENT - ISRAELI PULLBACK OVER A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME COORDINATED WITH A PROGRAM OF EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS, SUCH AS REOPENING SUEZ CANAL AND PLEDGING A FORM OF NON-AGGRESSION. SO FAR AMERICAN OFFICIALS INDICATE NEGOTIATION IS ON TRACK AND PROGRESS IS BEING MADE.

WIRES

1. AP, CAIRO: CAIRO NEWSPAPER AL AHAM INDICATED TODAY THAT HAK MAY HAVE RESOLVED DEADLOCK OVER ISRAEL'S DEMAND FOR AN EGYPTIAN NON-BELLIGERENCY PLEDGE IN RETURN FOR A FURTHER PULLBACK IN SINAI DESERT.

SEMIOFFICIAL NEWSPAPER STRESSED THAT EGYPT IS NOW INSISTING THAT A FIXED DATE OR MAXIMUM TIME PERIOD FOR RECONVENING GENEVA PEACE TALKS MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PACT.

AL AHAM'S SHIFT OF EMPHASIS TO POST DISENGAGEMENT GENEVA TALKS WAS TAKEN AS AN INDICATION THAT DISPUTE OVER GUARANTEES OF PEACE MAY HAVE BEEN CLEARED UP.

ON HAK'S FLIGHT WEDNESDAY FROM ISRAEL TO ASWAN, IN UPPER EGYPT, U.S. OFFICIALS SAID HAK WAS CONSIDERING A JOINT AFFIRMATION BY EGYPT AND ISRAEL THAT NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES BY ACTS OF WAR. A SIMILAR STATEMENT WAS CONTAINED IN FIRST DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAK WORKED OUT A YEAR AGO BETWEEN TWO GOVTS.

ALL HAK WOULD SAY FOR RECORD WAS THAT HE THOUGHT EGYPT AND ISRAEL "WANT AN AGREEMENT AND ARE WORKING SERIOUSLY TOWARD UNCLASSIFIED

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IT. WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO MATCH REQUIREMENTS OF TWO SIDES REMAINS TO BE SEEN."

STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN ROBT ANDERSON SAID HAK AND PRESIDENT SADAT HAD "VERY GOOD TALKS" WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN ASWAN, "REVIEWED ALL ELEMENTS OF A POSSIBLE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT" AND DISCUSSED "SERIOUS COMPLICATED SUBJECTS."

"THERE IS STILL MORE WORK TO BE DONE," ANDERSON WENT ON, BUT ADDED: "BOTH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY CONTINUE TO BE HOPEFUL."

2. UPI, ASWAN: HAK TAKING TIME OUT FOR A MORNING SIGHT-

SEEING TOUR, SAID TODAY HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT ON A NEW EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT WERE MAKING SLOW BUT STEADY PROGRESS.

REPORTERS ASKED HAK IF THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS WERE MOVING AHEAD. "DEFINITELY," HE REPLIED.

HE SAID HE WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL HOW MUCH PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE NEXT WEEK AFTER ANOTHER SHUTTLE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT.

"WE ARE GOING AHEAD SLOWLY," HE SAID.

A KEY ISSUE IN TALKS STILL APPEARED TO BE AN ISRAELI DEMAND FOR A FORMAL PLEDGE FROM EGYPT TO END STATE OF WAR AS A PRICE FOR FURTHER ISRAELI TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM SINAI OIL FIELDS AND PASSES.

BUT U.S. OFFICIALS HERE DENIED AS UNFOUNDED REPORTS FROM SOME QUARTERS THAT HAK HAD PROPOSED, AS A WAY OF SETTLING ISSUE, A JOINT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AFFIRMATION THAT NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES NOT SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES BY ACTS OF WAR.

EGYPTIAN GOVT SOURCES, MEANWHILE, SAID SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD APPROACHED SADAT THROUGH A THIRD ARAB PARTY AND URGED HIM TO PRESSURE HAK TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN GOLAN HEIGHTS AS WELL. SOURCES DID NOT IDENTIFY INTERMEDIARY. HAK AND HIS WIFE, NANCY, TOURED UNCLASSIFIED

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TEMPLES OF PHILAE, WHICH ARE BEING MOVED TO A NEARBY ISLAND JUST UP RIVER FROM ASWAN.

HAK AND SADAT MET WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOR WHAT U. S. SPOKESMAN ROBT ANDERSON SAID WERE "VERY GOOD TALKS". ...

#### NEWSPAPERS

1. BALTIMORE SUN, PAGE ONE, ASWAN: HAK SAID YESTERDAY THAT HE IS CONVINCED AFTER ONE FULL ROUND OF THE SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY THAT BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL WANT A SECOND-STAGE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, BUT THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER TWO CAN BE BROUGHT CLOSE ENOUGH TO ACHIEVE ONE.

"I THINK BOTH SIDES WANT AN AGREEMENT," HAK TOLD REPORTERS ABORAD FLIGHT HERE FROM ISRAEL...

A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS ABOARD PLANE SAID HAK IS BRINGING EGYPTIANS THE "VIEWS, CONSIDERATIONS AND REFLECTIONS" OF ISRAELI GOVT FOLLOWING FIRST ROUND OF TALKS...

...AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THEY EXPECT TO KNOW AFTER COMPLETION

OF THIS SECOND ROUND OF TALKS HOW WELL THEY ARE GOING.  
AT THIS STAGE, AMERICAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS WILL ONLY SAY  
THAT NO "UNANTICIPATED COMPLICATIONS" HAVE ARISEN SO FAR...

2. NYT, GWERTZMAN, PAGE 4, ASWAN: BEGINNING SECOND PHASE  
OF HIS LATEST DIPLOMATIC SHUTTLE, HAK ASSERTED TODAY THAT  
BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT WANTED A NEW SINAI AGREEMENT BUT  
REMAINED AT ODDS OVER KEY ISSUES.

...HAK TOLD NEWSMEN ON HIS JET THAT AFTER COMPLETING INITIAL  
TALKS IN EGHPT AND ISRAEL HE BELIEVED NOT ONLY THAT THERE  
WAS A DESIRE FOR AN ACCORD BUT ALSO THAT "BOTH SIDES ARE  
WORKING SERIOUSLY ON THE PROBLEM"...

...ISRAELIS HAVE TREATED SADAT'S IDEAS COOLY. IT WAS  
UNDERSTOOD THAT RABIN DID NOT WANT TO APPEAR TOO EAGER  
TO RESPOND.

ISRAEL ALSO ASKED HAK TO SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION FROM  
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SADAT ON CENTRAL ISSUE OF RECONCILING EGYPT'S DEMAND FOR  
RETURN OF SINAI TERRITORY WITH ISRAEL'S DESIRE TO END  
EGYPT PARTICIPATION IN ARAB WAR AGAINST ISRAEL.

AS A RESULT, HAK EFFORTS HAVE SLOWED SOMEWHAT AND HIS CON-  
VERSATIONS WITH SADAT DURING THIS STOPOVER WERE NOT  
EXPECTED TO BE INTENSE. ...

IN JERUSALEM LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING, HAK STUDIED IN  
DETAIL ISRAELI VIEW OF SITUATION.... RABIN UNDER PRESSURE  
FROM HIS POLITICAL OPPOSITION, HAS DECLARED THAT ISRAEL WOULD  
NOT AGREE TO RETURN OF EITHER ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS OR  
STRATEGIC MITLA AND GIDI PASSES--EGYPT'S MINIMUM DEMANDS--  
UNLESS EGYPTIANS GAVE AN UNEQUIVOCAL PLEDGE OF NON-BELLI-  
GERENCY, IN EFFECT TAKING THEMSELVES OUT OF WAR AGAINST  
ISRAEL.

SADAT, WHO HAS COME UNDER SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN PRESSURE  
NOT TO MAKE SEPARATE DEALS WITH ISRAEL HAS REFUSED TO SIGN  
A DIRECT PLEDGE OF NON-BELLIGERENCY...

HAK BELIEVES THAT THIS SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC GAP IS SURMOUNT-  
ABLE.

3. NY DAILY NEWS, CARTER, PAGE 6, ASWAN: HAK RETURNED TO  
EGYPT FOR MORE TALKS WITH SADAT TODAY, HAVING SAID THAT  
HE STILL DID NOT KNOW WHETHER A SECOND-STAGE DISENGAGEMENT  
PACT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL WAS POSSIBLE.

DIFFICULTY IS ISRAEL'S INSISTENCE THAT IT WILL NOT GIVE UP  
MITLA AND GIDI PASSES IN SINAI WITHOUT A FORMAL PLEDGE

FROM EGYPT TO END 26-YEAR-OLD STATE OF WAR BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, AND EGYPT'S INSISTENCE THAT IT WILL NOT GIVE SUCH A PLEDGE...

...A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL ON HAK'S PLANE SAID ISRAELIS HAD NOT YET MADE A CONCRETE DECISION ON HOW MUCH THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE FOR ANOTHER PEACEMAKING STEP WITH EGYPT.

ISRAELIS HAVE DECIDED INSTEAD, OFFICIAL SAID, TO GO THRU UNCLASSIFIED

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A PROCESS OF ELABORATING ISSUES BEFORE THEY MAKE A FORMAL PROPOSAL.

BEFORE THEY CAN MAKE ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL, RABIN WILL HAVE TO WIN APPROVAL OF CABINET...

HAVING MET WITH RABIN AND OTHER ISRAELI OFFICIALS THIS MORNING, HAK SAID IN JERUSALEM THAT "NOTHING HAS CHANGED IN MY ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION." HE HAS SAID THAT CHANCES OF AGREEMENT ARE ABOUT 50-50.

ADDITIONAL WIRE STORY

LATE ADD TO UPI WIRE: IT WAS LEARNED THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI, IF THERE IS AN AGREEMENT, WILL HAVE TO COME IN PHASES TO ALLOW ISRAELIS TO BUILD A NEW DEFENSE LINE BEHIND MITLA AND GIDI PASSES IN DESIERT.

T;HIS HAS NOT YET COME UP IN NEGOTIATIONS, IT WAS LEARNED, BECAUSE FIRST THERE MUST BE AN AGREEMENT BEFORE TWO COUNTRIES....

..."EGYPT IS OF OPINION THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO FIX DATE FOR HOLDING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE" AND THAT SETTING DATE IS LINKED TO AN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, PAPER SAID.

IN TEL AVIV, SOLDIERS ARE TAKING PRECAUTIONARY COUNTERMEASURES. NATIONAL RADIO SAID WAR MAY ERUPT IF HAK'S PEACE MISSION FAILS.

"ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES ARE CAREFULLY WATCHING FRONTIERS AND HAVE TAKEN NEEDED PRECAUTIONS FOLLOWING ARMY PREPARATIONS OF SYRIA AND EGYPT," SOURCES SAID.

THEY CITED CONTINUING CONSTRUCTION OF FORTIFICATIONS ON EAST AND WEST BANK OF SUEZ CANAL, THE PASSAGE FRIDAY OF AN EGYPTIAN DESTROYER THRU CANAL ENROUTE TO GULF OF SUEZ AND LARGE-SCALE SYRIAN ARMY MANEUVERS LAST WEEK.

RADIO REPORT SAID SOVIET UNION HAS "GREATLY STEPPED UP

ITS SEALIFT OF WEAPONS AND SPARE PARTS TO EGYPT.  
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"MILITARY ANALYSTS HERE TEND TO TAKE QUITE SERIOUSLY RECENT  
WAR-LIKE STATEMENTS ISSUED BY SADAT AND HIS WAR MINISTER  
AND FM FAHMI." INGERSOLL

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